



Fort Jones Fire Department

Chief John Shepherd
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To City Council,

The Fire Department responded to 32 calls for service the month of August. Members participated in 16 hours of scheduled training and have completed Target solutions classes. The Fire department has responded to 284 calls year to date.

August 2020 Calls

Call Type	City Limits	Out of City
MEDICAL AID	5	18
PUBLIC ASST.	1	1
VEG. FIRE	0	3
STU. FIRE	1	0
TRAFFIC ACCIDENT	0	0
POWER LINE FIRE	0	1
ILLEGAL FIRE	1	0
HAZARDOUS SITUATION	1	0
Total	9	23

The fire department had yet another busy month with fire season in full effect and fires growing faster and going bigger. The fire department was hired by CAL FIRE to staff an engine to staff our own station since the CAL FIRE Fort Jones station was empty which was recently down staffed when CAL FIRE returned. The fire department also had a engine out at the airport for crash rescue for over a week. We recently sent a engine down to happy camp and is still assigned to the fire. We had the large fire in school house gap that fire is stopped. Thankfully we had a engine staffed and ready to go and will be staffed while we have a engine in happy camp. The fire department has gained 4 new members including one sleeper.



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On August 10th, 2020, the Fort Jones Fire Department along with CAL FIRE, Scott Valley Fire, and Etna Fire were dispatched to 11300 Main Street Fort Jones, Marble View Motel at approximately 1229 in the afternoon for a possible Structure fire. Upon arrival light smoke was showing from the Alpha Delta corner of the building. The owner of the building Michael Bispo was seen with a garden hose exiting the laundry room. Upon speaking with Bispo he stated that he extinguished the fire and that the fire had started in the laundry room next to the fuse boxes. With the assistance of CAL FIRE engines 2665 and 2675, Fort Jones Fire E1314 pulled ceiling and started to check the attic and pull the debris out of the laundry room. After the attic had been checked and no further spread was confirmed, an investigation was started to see how and where the fire had started. Upon investigation a POI (Point of Ignition) was established. The POI was where the main electrical line for the motel was running through a cinder block wall and laying loose across a shelf that had multiple items laying on top of it. Any further investigation was halted until Pacific Power arrived at scene and disconnected the power to ensure all power was out. Upon further inspection it was found that the drop line was going to the pump house for the well for the motel, not the motel itself. The size of the wires going to the pump were the right size for the pump but, not the motel itself. It was found that the motel ran the main line for the motel through a small metal pipe into a wooden box on the outside of the motel. Then the main line went through the cinder block wall and into the laundry room (all pictured below). Upon speaking to Bispo and showing him where the fire had started he stated that he had "nigger rigged a junction" because the wire he was using was about three feet long and he just added wire so that he could connect into the fuse box to establish power for the motel. Bispo stated that exactly where we found the POI was where he had made an improvised connection to another wire to make it longer. Per the Pacific Power representative at scene it was out of code and pulled the meter and informed Bispo that he would not reconnect power till he had an electrician out to install the fuse box and fix everything up to code. The representative for Pacific Power informed us that he would not reconnect the power until he spoke with the electrician himself and could confirm that it was up to code. Estimated cost was between 40 thousand to 50 thousand dollars.